industries including agro industries and the consequent generation of employment opportunities as on 31.3.2002 is enclosed. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question 1653 (a) to (b)]. Under this Scheme, 14.42 lakhs jobs have been created and 1,40,481 projects (provisional) have been financed upto 31.3.2002.

(d) the Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) throughout the country for the development of cottage and small scale industries including agro and rural Industries. Under this scheme, the KVIC provides marging money assistance at the rate of 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the project above Rs. lOlakhsand upto Rs. 25 lakhs, rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% on remaining cost of the project. In the case of SC/ST/OBC/Women/ Physically Handicapped/Ex-Servicemen and Minority Community beneficiary/institution and for hill border and tribal areas, North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, the margin money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs but above this amount and upto Rs. 25 lakhs it is 10% of the remaining cost of the project. Under this scheme, the beneficiary's contribution is at least 10% of the project cost. In case of SC/ST and other weaker section, beneficiary's contribution is 5% of the project cost. This scheme is being implemented through Public Sector banks, Regional Rural Banks etc.

Steps to promote ARts

1655.SHRIRG.NARAYANAN:Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken by Government to promote agro and rural Industries after emergence of WTO policies; and

(b) if so, the action plan worked out by Government to keep pace with the world market?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIY^ MUNDA): (a) and (b) With the emergence of World Trade Organisation (WTO) Policies, the competitiveness in terms of quality and prices of Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) products are the two important areas which deserve attention. The Government has announced a special package for KVI sector which *inter-alia* takes care of quality as well as marketing aspects of khadi and village industries products. In order to facilitate technological upgradation in KVI sector, the Government of

India has upgraded its Research and Development Centre located at Wardha to a National level Institute. For intensifying marketing efforts, commom brand names as 'Sarvodaya' 'Deshi Aahar' and 'Khadi'—India have been launched.

Separate policy for ARIs

† 1656. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering formulations of a separate policy for development of agro, rural and very small industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said policy would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (c) Government had announced a package for promotion of khadi and village industries sector on 14th May, 2001, with the prime objective of creating more jobs in rural areas and empowering the women and backward classes. The main features of the package comprise of a rebate policy for five years, option of Rebate or Marketing Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing brand building and cluster development.

Coir Board is implementing various policies and programmes for promotion and sale of coir and coir products through modernization of production infrastructure, upgradation of skill of workers, expansion of domestic market and increase in export through publicity.

In addition, a comprehensive policy package was announced for the SSI and tiny sector on 30th August, 2000. Under the comprehensive policy, assistance is being provided for the tiny industries which includes the limit for eligibility for credit guarantee raised to Rs. 25 lakh, the limit for composite loan facility revised from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh, the investment limit for plant and machinery for the tiny sector retained at Rs. 25 lakh, 20% of the projected annual turnover qualifies for working capital loan, etc. Under the Prime" Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) which finances setting up of micro enterprises and generates employment for the educated unemployed, the family income eligibility limit has been raised to Rs. 40,000 per annum.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.